

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /171 W

----- 063649

R 101529Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4634

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EAGR, ETRD, UK

SUBJECT: QUERY CONCERNING FARM WORKERS - TEAMSTER

AGREEMENT AND GRAPE BOYCOTT

REF: LONDON'S 10988

1. AN ARTICLE IN THE OCTOBER 7 ISSUE OF THE LONDON
SUNDAY TIMES REPORTS THAT THE "TEAMSTERS HAS FINALLY
AGREED TO TEAR UP THE 180 CONTRACTS WHICH IT SIGNED
WITH CALIFORNIA'S GRAPE GROWERS." THE TIMES ARTICLE
ALSO NOTES "THAT A NEW WORLD-WIDE GRAPE BOYCOTT IS
EXPECTED TO START NEXT WEEK." THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED
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QUERIES FROM BOTH THE FRUIT TRADE FEDERATION WHICH

HANDLES GRAPE IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND FROM THE TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS' UNION (TGWU) AS TO WHETHER THE TIMES ARTICLE IS ACCURATE.

2. SINCE GRAPE SHIPMENTS ARE NOT DUE UNTIL ABOUT NOVEMBER 1 AT LONDON DOCKS IT WILL NOT BE CLEAR UNTIL THAT TIME WHETHER A TGWU CALL FOR A BOYCOTT (REFTEL) WILL BE HEEDED. HOWEVER, IMPORTERS ARE REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE NEW SALES CONTRACTS IN FEAR THAT SPOILT GRAPE CARGOES MAY PILE UPON THE DOCKS IF A BOYCOTT IS, IN FACT, LAUNCHED. A TGWU SOURCE HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO STATE PRECISELY TO US WHETHER A BOYCOTT WILL ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE. THIS HESITANCY MAY BE DUE PARTLY TO THE FACT THAT SECONDARY BOYCOTTS ARE PRECLUDED BY THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT AND PARTLY BECAUSE THERE IS STILL SOME UNCERTAINTY ON THE PART OF THE TGWU AS TO WHETHER A GRAPE BOYCOTT HAS, IN FACT, BEEN LAUNCHED BY THE AFL-CIO NATIONAL FARM WORKERS' UNION.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE STATE OF PLAY BETWEEN THE FARM WORKERS' UNION, THE TEAMSTERS AND THE GROWERS, AND IN PARTICULAR THE STATUS OF THE UFW BOYCOTT.

ANNENBERG

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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